

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of the 47 CFR)	RM-10521
Part 97 Amateur Radio Service)	
and/or Amendment of the 47)	
CFR Part 95 Subpart B Family)	
Radio Service to permit Non-)	
Amateur Non-United States)	
Resident Foreign Nationals)	
Access to the 446.0-446.1 MHz)	
Band)	

To: The Commission

COMMENTS of Nickolaus E. Leggett
N3NL Amateur Radio Operator

The following are comments from Nickolaus E. Leggett, an amateur radio operator (Extra Class licensee – call sign N3NL), inventor (U.S. Patents # 3,280,929 and 3,280,930 and one invention patent pending), and a certified electronics technician.

The Petition

The petitioner proposes that European visitors be allowed to use hand-held radio transceivers that are designed for the European version of the Family Radio Service (FRS). These radios operate on a different set of frequencies than those authorized for the American FRS. The European frequencies happen to be located within a busy American amateur radio band.

Unexpected Consequence

If this petition is implemented as FCC rules, there will be an unexpected consequence. In effect, this new rule would create a second family radio service in addition to the existing FRS. This would occur because there would be no practical way

to distinguish allowed foreign users of the new FRS from illegal American users of this service. Americans could obtain European radio transceivers and use them as they wished. The only way to determine if they were legitimate users would be to find the individuals transmitting and ask them for their identification or passports. This is clearly a difficult process, so Americans would be free to use these European channels in addition to the American FRS channels listed in the appendix of these comments (Appendix A).

U.S. Customs

U.S. Customs will not be able to help much to block the import flow of illegal European radio transceivers. Customs has new, much higher, priorities in the homeland defense effort. These include intercepting terrorists and the flow of weapons of mass destruction. There will not be many resources left to block radios that violate FCC rules.

This means that the FCC will be left on its own to deal with imported radios for the incompatible European FRS.

A Better Solution

The FCC should work through international regulatory channels to approach the issue of harmonizing the allocation of Family Radio Service frequencies. This could result in a sensible solution that would serve international travelers without negatively impacting busy amateur radio frequencies.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 20, 2002

Appendix A

Sec. 95.627 FRS unit channel frequencies.

(a) The FRS unit channel frequencies are:

Channel No.	(MHz)
1	462.5625
2	462.5875
3	462.6125
4	462.6375
5	462.6625
6	462.6875
7	462.7125
8	467.5625
9	467.5875
10	467.6125
11	467.6375
12	467.6625
13	467.6875
14	467.7125

(b) Each FRS unit must be maintained within a frequency tolerance of 0.00025%.

[61 FR 28769, June 6, 1996]